

24 A N
Astronomical Description
Of the late 537. e. 9
COMET
OR
BLAZING-STAR

As it appeared in *NEW ENGLAND*
in *November, December, January,*
and in the beginning of
February 1664.

Being the first and greatest of the Three
Comets which was seen at *London*
and elsewhere in *Europe.*

Together
With a brief Theological Application
thereof.

By *S. DANFORTH, M. A.*

*Psal. 111. 2. The works of God are great, sought
out of all them that have pleasure in them.*

*Job 36. 24. Remember that thou magnifie his work
which men behold.*

*Exod. 7. 23. And Pharaoh turned and went into his
house, neither did he set his heart to this also.*

Printed at *Cambridge in New England*, and now re-
printed at *London for Peter Parker*, and are to be
sold at the first Shop in *Popes-head-Alley*
next *Lombard-street*, 1666.



DU BARTAS.

*There, with long bloody hair, a blazing-star
Threatens the World with Famine, Plague
and War.*

*To Princes, deaths; to Kingdomes, many
crosses.*

To all estates inevitable losses.

*To Hearsmen, Rots; to Plowmen haplesse
seasons.*

To Saylors, storms; to Cities, civil treasons.





To the
R E A D E R.

T*His Comet was unobserved by me, by reason of the badness of the weather, and its early rising, but chiefly by reason of the indisposition of my body at the time of its appearance; having been much weakened by a tedious Dysentery some years before: and at that time very sorely afflicted therewith; yet I received Letters from several that saw it, most of them concurring in their Observations, but none of them satisfactory to me, being but done Crassâ Minervâ.*

This Discourse being brought to my hands by a friend, and having already passed the Press at Cambridge in New England, and the Author commended for an able Artist; and his Astronomical Obser-

To the Reader.

vations appearing more rational than any I have met withal yet, I could wish they might be made publick in Old England; that if any other have better, they might be brought forth likewise, for the benefit of Students in this sublime Science.

As for the Judicatory part, every man is left to his own opinion; mine being, That God hath sent it as an Herauld, to proclaim great and wonde ful mutations to happen in the World.

Ita sentit,

JOHN BOOKER



A N
Astronomical Description

Of the late

COMET

As it appeared in

NEW - E N G L A N D .

- I *This Comet is no sublunary meteor, or sulphurous exhalation ; but a Celestial Luminary moving in the Starry Heavens.*

THe truth hereof may be demonstrated,

I. *By the vast dimensions of its body.*

Some Comets have been observed by Astronomers to be half as big as the Moon, some bigger than the Moon ; yea , some bigger than the Earth. The exact dimensions of this Comet, I may not presume to

determine ; but it seemeth not to be of the smallest size. Now 'tis not easie to imagine how the Earth should afford matter for a Meteor of such an huge magnitude, except we grant the greater part of the lower world to be turned into an exhalation.

2. *By the smallness of its Parallax.*

The Parallax, is the distance between the true place of a Planet and the apparent. The lower and nearer any Planet is to the Earth, it hath the greater Parallax. The Moons Parallax in her *Perige*, is one degree and six minutes. I could not by my Observation discern that this Comet had any considerable Parallax.

3. *By its large circular motion.*

If it had moved in the upper Region of the Air, it might have finished the whole visible arch of its circle in a few hours; but we saw it perform its proper motion with great constancy in a very large circle, such as the Air is not capable of.

4. *By its long duration and continuance.*

Had it been a sulphurous vapour kindled in the Air, it might have been consumed in a short time, as other fiery meteors are; but this continued about three moneths.

5. *By its visibility to all Countries and Nations.*

We already hear that this Comet was
seen

seen at *Virginea, Jamaica, St Martha, Cartagena, and Barbadoes* ; and no doubt but it was visible to the whole habitable world. But the highest region of the Air is accounted not much above fifty English miles from the Earth , and had this Comet been no higher , it had been impossible that other Countries and Nations so far distant should have beheld it. Whether this Comet was created in the beginning of the world , together with the rest of the stars, and hath been hidden in the height and profundity of the Heavens ; and at a certain time descending towards the Earth , becomes visible and signal to the World , I leave free to after disquisition.

II. *This Comet is not an opaque body, like the Moon and other of the Planets, but transparent and pellucid, the Sun shining through it.*

The Moon is enlightened on that part onely which is next the Sun, and like a looking glasse she reflects the solar beams which are cast upon her ; but the Sun irradiates the Comet , and shines thorow it , as thorow a transparent gemme , and illustrates a long tract in the Heavens beyond it. As the Moon being a thick and dark body , casts a dark shadow from the Sun , so the Comet being a clear and diaphanous body , transmits

mits the light, and casts a bright and shining stream from the Sun ; which alters and varies according to the divers aspect of the Sun.

III. *The Coma or blazing stream that issues from the Comet , is no real flame, but the irradiation and resplendency of the Sun through the transparent and pellucid body of the Comet.*

A Comet is denominated from its *Coma* or bushy lock , for the stream hath some resemblance of a lock of hair. Now this stream is not the flagrancy of the Comet, but the beams of the Sun shining thorow the diaphanous and translucent head of the Comet, as may be argued and demonstrated :

1. *By its site and position , which is alwayes in opposition to the Sun.* Had it been a natural flame arising from its flagrant head , it would have constantly moved upwards , as the flame of a Lamp or Torch, unless it had broken forth by violence ; but this streaming was sometimes upward, sometimes somewhat downward , sometimes Westward, sometimes Northward, sometimes Eastward , according to the position of the Sun ; neither can I imagine that any violence caused it so to move.

2. *By the divers form and figure of the stream, according to the divers aspect of the Sun.*

Sun. One while it was like a beard, another while like a tail.

3. *By the divers dimensions of the stream.* It was sometimes longer, sometimes shorter, sometimes broader, sometimes narrower; according as the Comet was nearer or farther from the Earth.

4. *By the divers quality and colour of the stream.* It was sometimes bright and radiant, at other times obscure, dusky, and faint, according to the apparent radiation of the Sun, and the Comets distance from us.

5. *By its duration.* Had it been a real and natural flame, it is difficult to understand how the head of the Comet could have supplied it with food and fuel for so many mouths together.

Object. If the stream be an irradiation of the Sun, how comes it to be conspicuous and visible to us? The Sun beams passing thorow the ætherial Heavens, are not in themselves visible, neither do they terminate our sight.

Ans. The onely reason thereof (that I can yet learn) is the refraction and reverberation of the Sun beams, as they pass thorow the Comets condensed body, whereby they are so congregated, and so neerly united, as that they terminate the sight and

he=

become conspicuous in the Heavens. I have read of a certain semi-transparent Gemme, called the Heliotrope, that if it be put into fair water, opposed to the beams of the Sun, it doth change its beams, and by the repercussion of the air, seems to shadow the clearness of its rays, and so induce a sanguineous colour in the air; as if the Sun by the interposition of the body of the Moon, did suffer an eclipsick darkness.

IV. This Comet is not a new fixed star, but a planetick or erratick body, wandring up and down in the ætherial firmament, under the fixed stars.

Some learned Astronomers distinguish these more noble Phenomena or Appearances into fixed and erratick. Several new stars have appeared which are fixed, i. e. they keep the same place in the Heavens, and the same distance from the fixed stars. One in *Cassiopeia*, Anno 1572, which continued a year and four moneths. Another in *Antinous*. Another in the Girdle of *Andromeda*. Another in the *Whale*. Another in the Breast of the *Swan*, which continued many years. But this Comet was Ἀστὴρ πλανήτης (as *Jude* speaks) a wandring star, which kept not the same place in the Heavens, nor the same distance from the fixed stars.

V. This

V. *This Comet appeared first in the Constellation of the Raven, whence it descended and crossing the Tropick of Capricorn and some part of Hydra, it went Southward until it arrived at the main top sail of the Ship; then it began to return, and going thorow the Belly of Canis Major, it again crossed the Tropick of Capricorn, and passing thorow the middle of the Hare, it crossed the River Eridanus and the Equinoctial, and entred into the mouth of the Whale, and going thorow his head, it crossed the Ecliptick, and so passed up between Aries and Linum Septentrionale.*

Some took notice of this Comet in the beginning of *November*, and indeed it had passed thorow the middle of the Asterisme of *Corvus* (as I gather from its following motions) before I saw it.

Decemb. 5. Early in the morning it seemed to me to be very near the Southern Tropick, about 3 degrees Southward of the *Ravens Mouth*, having longitude, *Libra* 4 deg.

Decemb. 8. Early in the morning I saw it in some part of *Hydra* in *Virgo* 28 deg. and South latitude 30 deg. the stream overshadowing a small star in *Hydra*, that was near.

Decemb.

Decemb. 16. Some observed it among the stars that are in the main mast of *Argo Navis*, where it had longit. *Leo* 23 deg. latit. S. 45 deg.

Decem. 17. It was seen amongst the *Stella informes*, which are behind *Canis Major*, where it was apprehended to have longit. *Leo* 2 deg. latit. South 50 deg.

Decemb. 18. The Comet came to *Syrins*, i. e. the *Great Dog*, and passed thorough his belly; that night I saw it in *Cancer* 13 deg. and latit. South 48 deg.

Decemb. 19. It ascended from *Canis Major*, and crossing the Southern Tropic, it arrived at *Lepus*, i. e. the *Hare*. That night I saw it pass over the more Northern Star in the *Hares* hinder legs, being in *Gemini* 24. deg. latit. South 44 deg.

Decemb. 23. I saw it as I supposed, in *Taurus* 14 deg. latit. S. 19 deg.

Decemb. 24. I apprehended it to be in the *Æquinoctial*, which it crossed in the 44th deg. entering into the Mouth of *Balana*, having long. *Taurus* 12 deg. 30 min. latit. S. 17 deg.

Decemb. 25. In *Taurus* 11 deg. 30 m. latit. S. 14 deg.

Decemb. 28. I saw it in a right line between two stars in the Head of the *Whale*, most in the middle between them; in
Tan-

Taurus 4 deg. 15 min. latit. S. 15 deg.

Decemb. 29. I saw it very near to another star in the Head of the *Whale*, in *Taurus* 3 deg. latit. S. 6 deg.

January 3. It crossed the Ecliptick in *Aries* 28 deg. 30 min.

January 16. It came to *Aries* 26 deg. latit. North 3 deg.

January 24. In *Aries* 25 deg. latit. N. 4. deg.

January 31. In *Aries* 25 deg. latit. N. 5 deg. 30 min.

February 4. In *Aries* 25 deg. latit. N. 6 deg. 15 min.

Since that I saw it not, nor any man else, that I hear of. If in these Observations I have not attained that accurateness which the Reader desires, my want of Astronomical Instruments may bespeak his indulgence therein.

VI. *This Comet at its first appearance was Oriental and Matutine, afterward it became Occidental and Vespertine.*

At first it appeared early in the morning, before the rising of the Sun; and then every day rose sooner than other (withal changing its Azimuth or point of the Compass in its rising) until it appeared in the evening, as soon as day-light was ended.

VII. This Comet at first moved but slowly, then more swiftly, till it came to its Perige; since which time it hath gradually decreased in its motion: towards the latter end of its apparition it hath moved most slowly.

From Decemb. 5th to the 8th (which was the time between my first and second Observation) the Comets apparent motion in its proper line upon the Celestial Sphere, was about two degrees and an half in a day, one day with another.

Decemb. 17. It was observed by some to move about 13 degrees.

Decemb. 18. It moved 15 or 16 deg.

Decemb. 19. It moved about 13 deg.

I cannot precisely determine its diurnal motion, especially when it was so exceeding swift, because I know not certainly the hour of the night, when the Observations were made. From Decemb. 25. to 29th. it moved 2 deg. and a half in a day. Decemb. 29. 2 deg. Decemb. 30. 1 deg. 30 min. Decemb. 31. 1 deg. In the beginning of January it moved near one degree in a day; but towards the latter end, not one degree in several dayes. From January 5. to February 4. according to my Observation, it gained scarce 7 deg.

VIII. This

VIII. *This Comet was continually retrograd in its motion, onely towards the latter end of its apparition, it became stationary.*

This Comet from the first time it was taken notice of, until the latter end of *January*, in its proper motion went contrary to the series and order of the Signs, viz. from *Libra* to *Virgo*, and so backward to *Aries*; but in the latter end of *January*, and in the beginning of *February*, it kept in the same degree of longitude, onely it altered its latitude.

IX. *This Comet hath moved constantly almost in a right line, or in a great circle, equal to the greatest circle of the Cœlestial Sphere; but toward its disappearing, it hath deflected a little and become Elliptical.*

This may be demonstrated by the Celestial Globe. Depress the Southern Pole, 61 deg. (which is the complement of the Comets greatest declination) and you may find almost all the afore-mentioned Observations concerning the Comets place, to fall just upon the Horizon of the Globe; but towards the latter end, you shall find the Cometical line to recede a little from a true circle.

X. *The proper circle of the Comets motion is Eccentricall, i. e. it hath a Center diverse from the Center of the World.*

This is evident : 1. By the diversity of its latitude, which was sometimes Southern and sometimes Northern. 2. By the inequality of its apparent motion, which was sometimes swift, and sometimes slow. 3. By the diversity of its distance from the earth, which was sometimes greater and sometimes less.

XI. *This Comet hath ascended in Meridian altitude above 44 deg. For its lowest Meridian altitude with us was 18 deg. 40 min. and its highest was 63 deg. 15 min.*

XII. *The Cometical line descended to 29 deg. of South Declination.*

XIII. *The Comets Southern limit of latitude was 50 deg.*

XIV. *The apparent motion of the Comet was anomalous, but its motion in its proper Orb or Circle was very near equal and uniform.*

That its apparent motion was unequal and irregular, is manifest by its velocity or swiftness one while, its mediocrity another while, and its tardity or slowness towards the latter end. The cause of which Anomaly and inequality, was the Comets eccentricity.

centricity. That the Comets motion in its proper Orb or Circle, was very near equal and uniform, may be demonstrated by the equality of its diurnal motion, in equal distances from its *Perige*. For instance, I find, on the 5th of *December* and on the 25th, the Comet was equally distant from its *Perige*, and that then its apparent motion was equal, viz. 2 deg. 30 min. in a day; and therefore its true motion in reference to its own proper Center, was very near equal and regular.

XV. *The Comet seemed to be in its Perige, or nearest to the Earth, when it was in the belly of Canis Major, which was sometime on the 18th of December.*

The *Perige* is that point of the Cometical Circle which is nearest to the Earth. The *Apoge* is the point farthest distant from the Earth. That the Comet was in its *Perige* at the time, and in the place afore-mentioned, may be argued,

1. From the swiftness of its apparent motion on that day. All the Planets are slow in their *Apoge*, and swift in their *Perige*. This Comet was apprehended to move the most swiftly on that day.

2. From the equality of its apparent motion in equal distances from thence. An

instance whereof I gave before.

3. From the distance of the place assigned, *viz.* the middle of the Belly of *Syrus*, to the place of the Comets disappearing: in the Cometical line the distance is about 90 degrees. Now according to the Theory and Doctrine of Comets, it was never observed that any Comet, from the point of its swiftest motion, ever ran beyond the fourth part of a circle, which is 90 deg. N. B. on the self same day (*viz.* 18th of December) the Sun was also in his *Perige*.

XVI. Since December 5. the Comet hath proceeded in its proper curriole upon the Celestial Sphere 153 deg. and I suppose in all since its first apparition 180 degrees.

XVII. The Cometical Circle seemeth to include and encompass the Earth.

This may be argued : 1. From the length and greatness of the visible and apparent arch of the Cometical Circle, which was very near to, if not a true Semicircle. 2. From its duration and long continuance of its apparition, which was about three moneths.

XVIII. The true and real magnitude of the Comet was constantly one and the same, but its apparent magnitude was various and diverse.

At its first appearance it seemed but small, at length it appeared far greater, sometime it seemed to be very near half as big as the Moon; after that it decreased successively, till at last it appeared like a cloudy star. The reason whereof is evident, at its first appearance it was very high in the heavens, and therefore its diameter seemed less: afterward it descended lower and nearer to the Earth, and then its diameter increased: at length it went up higher, and was removed further from our sight, and then its *Basis*, together with the angle of the Optick Cone, was diminished, until at last it disappeared and vanished out of sight.

XIX. *The true colour and splendour of the Comet was alwayes one and the same, but its apparent colour was various and divers.*

At first appearance its colour was pale and obscure, afterward bright and radiant; at length it grew very obscure and faint like a cloudy star. In the *West Indies* it appeared fiery red and dreadful.

XX. *The Coma or stream that came from the head of the Comet, was alwayes cast into that part, which was diametrically opposite to the Sun.*

When the Comets irradiation was from

the Southeast, its streaming was towards the Northwest : when its irradiation was from S. S. E. its streaming was toward N. N. W. when its irradiation was South, its streaming was towards the North : when its radiation was from S. S. W. its streaming was towards N. N. E. when its radiation was from the S. W. its streaming was towards N. E.

XXI. *The Comet in respect of its stream, hath been of a diverse figure, according to the diverse aspect of the Sun.*

Comets in respect of their figure, are distinguished into *Barbate*, *Candate*, and *Crinite*. A Comet is *Barbate*, when the stream like a beard goes before the body of the Comet. *Candate*, when the stream like a tail follows the body of the Comet. *Crinite*, when the stream goes right up into the heaven, and seems like an hairy lock to be wound up about the Comets head. This Comet while it was Oriental, was *Barbate*, the stream going before its body, like a beard. When the Comet became Occidental, it was *Candate*, the stream following the Comets body like a tail : but it could not be properly *Crinite*, in regard of the Comets Southern latitude at the time of its opposition with the Sun.

XXII. *The*

XXII. *The stream hath appeared of a diverse height, breadth, and extent, according to the diverse position of the Sun, and the Comets distance from us.*

The stream was not alwayes of the same height in the heavens with the head of the Comet, but sometimes higher and sometimes lower. Neither was the dilatation of the stream alwayes one and the same, but it was sometimes broader and sometimes narrower, the length and extent of the stream was also diverse. Decemb. 8. it was apprehended to be 38 deg. longit. Decemb. 17. 20 deg. long. Decemb. 30. 15 deg. long. January 6. 14 deg. January 23. 7 deg. long. January 31. 3 degrees longitude.

XXIII. *This Comet hath been vertical to all Countries that lie between 29 deg. S. latit. and 15 deg. of Northern latitude.*

The Comet is said to be vertical to any people, when the body of the Comet passeth over their heads. This Comet was vertical to the chief Islands in the *East Indies*, as also to *Guinea*, and to the most of the Southern part of *Africa*; likewise to *Peru*, *Brasil*, *Guiana*, *Castilia*, *Delato*, *Nova Andalusia*, and to several of the Islands of the *West Indies*, as *Trinidad*,

Granada, Barbado's, Matalino, Dominica, and many others.

XXIV. *The stream which came from the Comet hath turned about, and pointed toward most Countries and Kingdomes in the habitable World.*

XXV. *This Comet is not evaporated nor dissolved, but it is ascended higher towards its Apoge, and so departed out of our sight.*

If the Comet be no vapour, but a Celestial Planetick Luminary, moving constantly in its Eccentric Orb; and if the stream thereof be no real flame, but the irradiation of the Sun through the Comets head, it will necessarily follow, that the Comet is not consumed, dissipated, or extinguished, but rather ascended toward its *Apoge, i. e.* the furthest point distant from the earth, and so being buried in the deep Abyss of the Heavens, become inconspicuous to us.

XXVI. *This Comet hath followed upon a notable Conjunction of the superiour Planets Saturn and Jupiter.*

Astronomers observe, that Comets do many times follow a Conjunction of the Superiour Planets. The last year Octob. 10. was a great Conjunction of Saturn and Jupiter in the 13th. degree of Sagittarius.



A brief Theological Application of this strange and notable appearance in the Heavens.

I. *The Holy Scriptures, which are the Authentick and unerring Canon of Truth, teach us to look at Comets as Portentous and Signal of great and notable Changes.*

Joel 2. 30, 31. I will shew wonders in the Heavens and in the Earth, blood and fire and pillars of smok. The Sun shall be turned into darkness, and the Moon into blood, before the great and terrible day of the Lord come.

Luke 21. 25. There shall be signs in the Sun and in the Moon, and in the Stars.

Acts 2. 19, 20. I will shew wonders in Heaven above, and signs in the Earth beneath; blood and fire, and vapour of smok. The Sun shall be turned into darkness, and the Moon into blood, before the great and terrible day of the Lord come.

II. *The Hystories of former ages do abundantly testifie that Comets have been many times Haranlds of wrath to a secure and impenitent world.*

Take a few instances.

A little before the *Ackaick* War (as *Seneca* reports) there appeared a Comet, fiery and ruddy, which cast a clear light, whereby the night was enlightened.

Anno Christi 50. There appeared a Comet the same year *Claudius* died, and bloody *Nero* succeeded, who slew his Mother, his Wife, and his Master *Seneca*, and exercised a great deal of cruelty and wickedness.

Anno 323. There were divers Comets which preceded the pestilent Heresie of *Arius*.

Anno 337. A Comet appeared before the death of *Constantine* the great, and innumerable evils followed.

Anno 602. A great Comet appeared, which preceded, if not presaged the slaughter of *Mauritius* the Emperour, and the supremacy of the Bishop of *Rome*.

Anno

Anno 675. and 676. There appeared a Comet three moneths , at which time the *Saracens* greatly afflicted the Roman Empire.

Anno 729. Two Comets appeared, and the same year a great Plague invaded the World.

Anno 814. A terrible Comet appeared before the death of *Charles* the Great.

Anno 1066. A Comet appeared a long time to the whole world, the same year *England* was many wayes afflicted by *William* Duke of *Normandy*, and at length subdued.

Anno 1618. There appeared a great Comet; the same year brake forth the bloody war in *Germany*.

Anno 1652. There appeared here a Comet at the beginning of *Mr. Cottons* Sickness, and disappeared a few dayes after his death. The next year strange and notable changes of State happened in *England*.

'Tis true, Some Comets have been thought to presage good to the world, as that in the dayes of *Augustus*, before the birth of *Christ*. [I intend not that miraculous star which appeared to the *Magi*.] Another before the death of *Nero*. Another

before the Reformation by *Wickeliffe* : Another before the Reformation by *Luther* : but most commonly they are observed to precede, if not portend great Calamities.

Anno 79. Upon a Comet followed horrible Winds, an Earthquake and Pestilence. When some shewed *Vespasian* this Comet, fearing it might portend his death; He answered merrily, *That this Prodigie noted not him, but the King of Parma; for saith he, he nourisheth his hair, but I am bald.* But not long after *Vespasian* died.

III. *The commination of wrath according to Scripture, is to be understood after a conditional manner, i. e. with an implicate reservation for Gods altering and revoking his threatened dispensation upon repentance intervening.*

Jer. 18. 7, 8. At what instant I shall speak concerning a Nation, and concerning a Kingdome, to pluck up and to pull down, and to destroy it; if that Nation against whom I have pronounced, turn from their evil, I will repent of the evil I thought to do unto them.

Jer.

Jer. 36. 3, 7. It may be the house of *Judah* will hear all the evil, which I purpose to do unto them, that they may return every man from his evil way, that I may forgive their iniquity and their sin. It may be they will present their supplication before the Lord, and will return every one from his evil way; for great is the anger and the fury, which the Lord hath pronounced against this people.

Jonah 3. 10. And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way, and God repented of the evil that he had said that he would do unto them, and he did it not.

I V. This blazing star being in conjunction with divers other awful providences and tokens of wrath, calls upon us to awake out of security, and to bring forth fruit meet for repentance.

A few instances of some late awful Providences in *New England.*

1. *Earthquakes.* About two years ago, viz. *January 26. and 28. 1663.* the foundations of the Earth trembled, and some
of

of our houses rockt like a Cradle ; six or seven times did the Earth shake under us in space of two or three dayes. It was then thought and said , that these Earthquakes might portend the Lords shaking the foundation of our Churches , and of our Civil State.

2. *The late removal by Death* , of some of our eminent *Prophets* and *Seers* , who were as eyes unto us in the *Wilderness* , and the *Chariots of Israel* , and the *Horsemen* thereof.

April 15. 1663. That burning and shining light , who shone in the Church of *Boston* , and gave light to the whole Colony and Countrey , *Mr. John Norton* , a man eminently accomplished , was taken from us , and translated to an higher O.b, of whom *New England* was not worthy.

July 20. 1663. That bright and radiant star , a star of the first magnitude , *Mr. Samuel Stone* , the strength and glory of *Connecticut* , rested from his labours and sorrows , and fell asleep sweetly and placidly in the Lord. A little before him *Mr. John Miller* and *Mr. Samuel Newman* , faithful , painful , and affectionate preachers of the Gospel , were also taken from us by death. Thus our pillars are cut down , our strongest

(23)
est stakes pluckt up, and our breaches not repaired. Is it a small thing in our eyes, our principal Congregations and Head Towns should be so sadly bereaved, as they are this day?

3. *The sad Mildew and Blasting*, whereby we have been greatly afflicted the last Summer, and some of us the Summer before, our principal grain turned into a husk and rottenness.

4. *Severe Drought* this last Summer, which burnt up the pastures and the latter growth.

5. *Early Frosts*, which smote our *Indian Corn*, and greatly impoverished our latter harvest.

Unto these, and some other no less threatening Visitations, is super-added this strange and fearful appearance in the Heavens, which is now seconded by a new appearance this Spring, concomitant to the translation of our honoured and aged Governour, Mr. *John Endicot*, from hence to a better world. By all which, doubtless the Lord calls upon *New England* to awake and repent.

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4. *Severe Drought* this last Summer, which burnt up the pastures and the latter growth.

5. *Early Frosts*, which smote our *Indian Corn*, and greatly impoverished our latter harvest.

Unto these, and some other no less threatening Visitations, is super-added this strange and fearful appearance in the Heavens, which is now seconded by a new appearance this Spring, concomitant to the translation of our honoured and aged Governour, *Mr. John Endicot*, from hence to a better world. By all which, doubtless the Lord calls upon *New England* to awake and repent.

To this end, consider ;

I. *What a jealous eye the Lord hath upon us, observing how we carry and behave our selves at such a time as this.*

Jer. 3. 8. And I saw , when for all the causes , whereby back-sliding *Israel* committed Adultery , I had put her away , and given her a bill of divorce ; yet her treacherous sister *Judah* feared not , but went and play'd the harlot also.

II. *What the Lord expects and looks for, from a people so highly favoured and priviledged, and so awfully warned and threatened.*

Zeph. 3. 7. I said, surely thou wilt fear me, thou wilt receive instruction ; so their dwelling place should not be cut off, howsoever I punished them.

III. *How sadly will the Lord Jesus expostulate with us , if we fall asleep in the hour of the Passion and Agony of the Gospel.*

Mat. 26. 40. He cometh unto the Disciples, and findeth them asleep , and saith

to Peter, what, could ye not watch with me one hour? Each word is very emphatical.

III. *The danger of being surprized by temptation, before we are aware.*

Lament. 1. 9. She remembered not her last end, therefore she came down wonderfully; she had no comforter. *Revel.* 10. 15. Behold I come as a thief, blessed is he that watcheth and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.

V. *The singular blessing reserved for the vigilant and penitent.*

Hab. 3. 16. When I heard, my belly trembled, my lips quivered at the voice, rottenness entered into my bones, and I trembled in my self, that I might rest in the day of trouble.

Luke 21. 36. Watch ye therefore and pray alwayes, that ye may be counted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to passe, and to stand before the Son of Man.

To conclude, God forbid that any of us should be Ἀσέγες πλανήται, *wandering stars*; eccentric and erratick in our motions, as

all Seducers and Impostors are, for whom
is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever,
Jude verse 13. But the Lord grant that we
may all become fixed stars in the New Je-
rusalem, which cometh down from God,
observing the heavenly order prescribed in
his Holy Word, and shining as lights in
the midst of a crooked and perverse gene-
ration, clearly reflecting that pure and
precious light, wherewith we are irradi-
ated by the Sun of righteousness: And then
we may assure our selves, Christ will hold
us in his right hand, and not suffer us to be
cast down from heaven; but enable us to
finish our course with joy, and at length
translate us into the Kingdom of the Fa-
ther, where we shall shine forth as the
Sun, and as the brightness of the Firma-
ment, and as the Stars for ever and ever.
Amen.

F I N I S.

